

IN THE ABSTRACT:

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### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An information reproducing apparatus has a light source for generating linearly polarized light, a medium having a linear mark, and an optical head disposed between the light source and the medium and having a fine aperture. A polarized light control portion in the light source controls the linearly polarized light to pass through the fine aperture of the optical head to generate near-field light having a preselected polarization direction and to irradiate the linear mark of the medium with the near-field light so that the preselected polarization direction of the near-field light is orthogonal to a longitudinal axis of the linear mark. A detector detects light scattered by the linear mark irradiated with the near-field light.